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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,763	01/09/2002	Janardhanan S. Ajit	41980/RJP/B600	7260

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2816	

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/043,763	AJIT, JANARDHANAN S.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Terry D. Cunningham	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 10 February 2003 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

Examiner has considered Applicant's concerning the p-channel transistors in the drawings filed 02 August 2002 and has found such to be acceptable for the corresponding objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 7, there is no support of the step of "coupling the pad voltage to a bias". As clearly understood from the specification, and specifically the description for Fig. 12A, "bias_mid" is a node to provide voltage to the "integrated circuit". However, "bias_mid" itself is not a bias. Examiner notes that the original language was more consistent with page 15 of the specification than the present language.

Claims 2-4 are rejected for the reasons discussed above with claim 1.

In claim 5, line 6, there is no support in the specification for the "bias_mid" to the "input element of the first semiconductor device". It is clear, due to the operation recited in lines 6-9 that the "first semiconductor device" must be transistor 1215 of Fig. 12A. However, as clearly seen "bias_mid" is coupled to the output of 1215, not the "input" of the "first semiconductor device".

Claim 6 is rejected for the reasons discussed above with claim 5.

Claim 6 is now indefinite due to the change in claim 5. Claim 5 states that the “switch” couples “Vpad to bias_mid”, whereas claim 6 states that the “fourth semiconductor device” provides this operation. This is seen to be contradictory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takiba et al. (USPN 5,208,488). Takiba et al. discloses, in Figs. 2 and 3, a circuit that provides a method comprising: “accepting a voltage (VDD at gates of P5, N11 and 30)”; “accepting a pad voltage (IN)”; “comparing (with P5 and N11)” and “coupling (by turning on N6 and P5) the pad voltage to a bias [node]”.

With respect to claims 5-6, the “first semiconductor device” would read on “N11”.

Examiner has considered Applicant’s remarks and has not found them to be persuasive. Applicant states that “Takiba simply outputs a high (VDD) or low (ground) voltage level depending on the value of a select signals and does not disclose or suggest coupling a pad voltage to a IC bias”. However, Applicant discussion of the reference to Takiba et al. or even that claim language in this statement is not consistent with the specification. With reference to Applicant’s Fig. 12A, for example, there is no disclosure of providing a voltage to an “IC bias”. The specification makes it clear that the voltage on node Vpad is provided by a part of the circuit to node Bias_Mid, not a “bias” per se. Further, with respect to the reference to Takiba, it is clear that such provides the claimed operation. Firstly, node IN is more reasonably considered to

be a “pad”. Also, from Figs. 2 and 3 and the corresponding description of Takiba et al., it is clear that the circuit is providing either ground or VPP at node IN to the level converting 31, in response to the level of the “power supply voltage” VDD.

Since the reference to Takiba et al. meets the present claim language, the rejection is view thereof is hereby maintained.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terry Cunningham whose telephone number is 703-308-4872. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on 703-308-4876. The fax phone numbers for Technology Center 2800 are 703-872-9318 for Before Final communications and 703-872-9319

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for After Final communications. Please note, any faxed paper clearly stating **DRAFT** or **PROPOSED AMENDMENT** at the top will be forwarded directly to the Examiner. All others will be treated as a formal response and acted upon accordingly.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

TC
March 26, 2003



Terry D. Cunningham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816